

## **Delay in Implementation of Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads**

**The U.S. Congress has passed and the President signed legislation (H.R. 3668) for a six-month delay in the implementation of the newly enacted federal mandate that all non-electronic prescriptions for Medicaid enrollees be written on tamper-resistant paper. The provisions of this law will now become effective on April 1, 2008.** Virginia Medicaid will comply with the implementation delay in accordance with this federal legislation.

Congress recently enacted a law that mandates the use of tamper-resistant prescription pads for most outpatient prescriptions written for fee-for-service Medicaid recipients, which was originally scheduled to become effective October 1, 2007. You may refer to the *Virginia Medicaid Memo* dated September 5, 2007 ([http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/downloads/pdfs/mm-Implm\\_TPPR.pdf](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/downloads/pdfs/mm-Implm_TPPR.pdf)) for details on the implementation of the tamper resistant prescription pad requirement. A web page has also been established on the DMAS web site to offer additional information and updates: <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-news.htm>.

Providers and recipients can also contact the First Health Services Clinical Call Center at 1-800-932-6648 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) with questions specifically regarding this new legislative development.

**Please share this important information with your colleagues.**